



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968
www.preservation.ri.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 16, 2005

Contact: Sarah Zurier, RIHPHC: 401-222-4142/szurier@preservation.ri.gov

**20TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS
PRESERVING HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP**

"Preserving Historic Houses of Worship" is the theme of the 20th Annual Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference, which takes place in Downtown Newport on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Organized by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, the day-long conference will offer a variety of workshops, lectures, tours, and discussions. Individual sessions include walking tours of Newport's church and synagogue architecture and works of art; a panel about fire code compliance; presentations of recent religious building restoration work and commercial tax credit projects; a roundtable on fundraising and friend-raising for church congregations; and a boat tour of Newport's historic waterfront.

The conference is a great opportunity for architects, planners, preservation professionals, church congregants, and community members to pick up strategies and to network with experts in the field of historic preservation. The morning session features a keynote address by The Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Pike, Rector of the Parish of Calvary/St. George's in New York and Chair Emeritus of Partners for Sacred Places, the national, non-sectarian, non-profit organization devoted to helping congregations and their communities sustain and actively use historic sacred places. Another morning highlight will be the presentation of the 2005 Historic Preservation Awards to individuals, organizations, and projects to celebrate their outstanding contributions on behalf of Rhode Island's historic resources.

Information about the conference is available online at www.preservation.ri.gov. Conference registration costs \$35 and includes lunch and the closing reception. Because seating is limited, early registration is highly recommended. To register, contact Janet Balletto at 401-732-6335.

Funding for the conference is provided by a National Park Service grant administered by the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission as well as additional support from the AIA/Rhode Island; Armory Revival Company; Cornish Associates | Malcolm G. Chace | Elizabeth Z. Chace; Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects; Gilbane Properties; Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc.; Newport Congregational Church; Newport Historical Society; Newport Restoration Foundation; PAL, Inc.; Preserve Rhode Island; R.I. Turnpike and Bridge Authority; Riverfront Lofts; Roger Williams University School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation; Salve Regina University; Save the Bay; Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse; Thames Street Landing; The Foundry Corporate Office Center; The Hotel Providence | Stanley Weiss Associates; and The Preservation Society of Newport County.

###